

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
**John H. Glenn Research Center**  
**Lewis Field**  
Cleveland, OH 44135-3191



February 1, 2010

Reply to Attn of: G

TO: Distribution

FROM: Deputy Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at an STS-130  
Pre-Launch Reception hosted by Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.

Friday, February 5, 2010, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, ASRC, will host a pre-launch reception in anticipation of the STS-130 launch. The event will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Cocoa Beach, Florida, 2028 N. Atlantic Avenue. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m. with approximately 100 people in attendance including representatives from industry, the Executive and Legislative Branches of the U.S. Government, state officials, NASA, and other Federal employees. Case Western Reserve University, the University of Akron and the Cleveland State University will provide food and beverages at a cost of approximately \$30 per person.

I find this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest having the attendance of the event by NASA personnel. The event will allow NASA employees to discuss space exploration, the Space Shuttle program, and the STS-130 mission with the other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the industry co-sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance at the reception.

NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect any of the sponsors including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under the Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for free attendance at the event for themselves and a guest. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect these co-sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their ethics counselor

In addition to the reception food and beverages, ASRC will give each attendee a lanyard and small stuffed polar bear with the ASRC Logo valued at less than \$5 each. Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a), which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion. Accordingly, in addition to accepting free attendance at the event, NASA employees may accept the luggage tag and pen. NASA invitees are reminded not to exceed the \$50 cap on gifts from one source in a calendar year.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. William Sikora".

J. William Sikora